

# **Tri-State Cow-Calf Conference**

**September 22-23, 2009**

**Appalachian Fairgrounds, Gray, TN**

Agriculture in the Tri-State area of East Tennessee, Southwest Virginia and Western North Carolina is dominated by cow calf producers. The operations consist of several thousand full time and part time beef producers. With the reduced production of tobacco, beef producers have sought other sources of income. Some have intensified their beef operation, while others have pursued other alternatives. Cow calf producers are exposed to many forms of risk such as drought, price volatility for fertilizer, diesel, hay and cattle. In addition to these, there are risks associated with health of cows and calves, genetics, reproduction and nutrition. Some producers have by choice or necessity explored new marketing alternatives such as selling freezer beef, retaining calves to heavier feeder cattle weights or to finished slaughter weights. This conference will present information to assist cow calf producers in making decisions to reduce risk in the production and marketing from their cow herd.

## **Cow/Calf Operations Tour- September 22 (tour departs Fairgrounds at 1:00 p.m.)**

The conference will begin with an optional tour of three Tennessee cow/calf operations. You will learn how these producers work to ensure success. Following the tour, a light meal will be served and the trade show will be open for you to visit with our sponsors.

## **Conference —September 23 (registration begins 7:45 a.m., program begins 8:30 a.m.)**

### **Beef Cattle Outlook and Industry Changes**

Dr. David Anderson, Extension Economist, Texas A&M University

### **Managing Genetic Defects and Enhancing End Product**

Dr. Scott Greiner, Extension Animal Scientist, Virginia Tech

### **Weaning Healthy Calves**

Dr. Fred Hopkins, Extension Veterinarian, University of Tennessee

### **Cow/Calf Producer Panel**

Virginia Cow/Calf Producers

**Utilization of By-Product Feed in Beef Cattle Diets**

Dr. Lawton Stewart, Beef Extension Specialist, University of Georgia

**Decisions, Decisions: What do I do with my calf crop?**

Dr. Curt Lacy, Extension Economist, University of Georgia

**What to Expect from a Custom Feedlot When Retaining Ownership**

David Trowbridge, Manager, Gregory Feedlots, Inc.

The meeting is sponsored by the University of Tennessee Extension, Virginia Cooperative Extension and North Carolina State University-A & T State University Cooperative Extension and a USDA Risk Management Education Grant. Advance registration is requested to plan for materials and a steak lunch. Registration is \$10 before September 16 and \$15 thereafter. Registration information is available through local County Extension Offices, or on the web at the VT Beef Extension and Education site <http://www.vtbeef.apsc.vt.edu/>.